

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
12 October 2001

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Niger

1. Purpose. To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Niger to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. Facts.

a. Summary of Program:

- (1) Tour Length - Approximately 12 months
- (2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates - November through December of the following year.
- (3) Program Description - One FAO per year conducts ICT in Niamey, Niger. FAO is assigned to the U.S. Embassy, Niamey and is the sole U.S. military officer posted in the embassy. A DAO is scheduled to open in Niamey, until then the FAO is under the supervision of DATT, Cote d'Ivoire. The FAO conducts in-country/regional orientation and study.
- (4) Prerequisites - CPT/MAJ, French language 2/2/2, CA/CS branch.
- (5) Language Instruction Availability: Staff French tutor is available at the U.S. Embassy for use by the FAO.

b. Property:

- (1) Government:
 - (a) Vehicle: The current FAO vehicle is a 1999 Toyota Land Cruiser. This vehicle is Government property for use in support of regional travel. It is for official use only. It is *not* a substitute for personal transportation.
 - (b) Furniture. The FAO residence comes fully furnished, to include major appliances.
 - (c) Office equipment: The FAO has a desktop computer and printer.

(2) Personal:

(a) POV: FAOs are authorized shipment of one POV and this is recommended. Normal shipment time is three months, so ship early. 4WD/AWD vehicles are recommended due to the desert environment and undeveloped road network. 4WD is recommended but not necessary for driving around the capital city. Most important is a vehicle with higher clearance. Ensure the Government Bill of Lading (GBL) states Lome, Togo or Cotonou, Benin. Specifically ensure that the vehicle is not sent to Nigeria instead of Niger, as it will be difficult to retrieve. Purchasing a vehicle, new or used, in country is also an option but can be very expensive. Area dealerships include Toyota, Suzuki, Peugeot, and Renault. Unleaded gas is available in Niger. USAA does not insure vehicles in Niger, but the Embassy GSO can arrange for local coverage.

(b) Household Goods: FAOs are normally authorized partial JFTR, since most furnishings and major appliances are provided. The FAO should bring only personal items, clothing, decorative items such as wall hangings, kitchen and gardening supplies, and entertainment items such as computers, stereos, and televisions. The incoming FAO should contact the resident FAO for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

c. Housing: FAO leases quarters: Current FAO quarters is a house with 3 bedrooms, three baths, office, 2 car garage, pool, and a walled garden and yard. The house is located 4 kilometers from the embassy. The embassy provides 24-hour guard service. Maid, gardener, nanny, or other domestic help are available at the FAO's expense. Rental costs are covered by the Government, so FAOs do not receive OHA/BAQ.

d. Support Facilities: All embassy facilities are located within a walled compound. This consists of the embassy, American School, Community Center (restaurant, pool, softball field, tennis courts), commissary (closing by the end of calendar year '01) and video store.

(1) Medical: A Physicians Assistant heads the Embassy Health Unit. The Health Unit can handle all minor illnesses, first aid, and administer vaccinations. Non-life threatening emergencies (broken bones etc.) are referred to a local clinic headed by French doctors. Minor dental work performed by local French dentist. All dental work should be completed prior to arrival. All vaccinations should be acquired before arrival.

(2) Dependent Schooling: The American School on the embassy compound has grades pre-K through 8th. Correspondence studies or boarding school are available for grades 9-12. DOD will pay costs associated with tuition and transportation

for children in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Pre-K is the responsibility of the FAO. Costs run approximately \$2,600 per school year.

(3) PX/Commissary: The Embassy operates a small cooperative with a very limited selection of American products. Prices are high due to cost of shipping. The Embassy expects to close the commissary by the end of calendar year '01. Two small European-style markets are available in Niamey offering mostly French products. These are also very expensive when compared to standard commissary prices. Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products (shelf and powdered milk) and hardware/clothing items are available in limited selection on the economy.

(4) Recreation. The Embassy compound has a community center which provides numerous services and activities, to include a restaurant, pool, tennis courts, softball field, playground and video rental. The Marine House, directly behind the compound, contains a bar and weight room. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) offers information and coordinates a wide variety of activities within the local community.

e. Rater/Senior Rater:

A/ARMA, Abidjan-Rater
DATT, Abidjan-Senior Rater

f. Incumbent FAO/Departure Date:

CPT Jason Turner 0011-0112
CPT Christian Ramthun 0111-0212

g. Address:

(1) Mail - FAO Niamey
 2420 Niamey Place
 Washington, D.C. 20521-2420

(2) Message - AMEMBASSY NIAMEY//FAO//

h. Phone #:

US EMBASSY (227) 72-26-61 (-62, -63, -64)
FAX (227) 72-49-19
FAO House (227) 75-31-05
DAO Abidjan (225) 21-48-81
DAO Fax, Abidjan (225) 22-80-51

3. Additional Information.

a. Entry requirements (NOTE: *This information is subject to change. Recommend incoming FAOs check DoD 4500.54G, Foreign Area Clearance Guide and w/sponsor NLT 90 days before PCS*). FAOs and family members require Official (maroon) passports. Visas are required for all FAOs and family members. Health/ immunization requirements: international health certificate with yellow fever and cholera (U.S. medical agencies no longer use this latter vaccine but should stamp your shot records anyway). Anti-malaria treatment should be started before arrival in country. Other vaccinations are recommended. See above references.

b. Bring materials for completion of CGSC and French language materials.

c. Civilian clothing is standard attire for the embassy. Sports coat and tie are standard for Country Team meetings (Mondays). Civilian Clothing Allowance is approved once in country by the DAO in Abidjan. BDUs or Class Bs (short sleeves) are generally worn when visiting military headquarters or attending military functions. Class As and dress blues are required items. Bring all military clothing items needed. Note: Gortex boots work well to insulate feet from the heat.

d. Strongly recommend shipment of available weight allowance to ship non-perishable consumables (toiletries, canned foods, pet foods, dry package foods, cleaning supplies, powder mixes, etc) from U.S. Bulk purchases can be arranged at U.S. commissaries by coordinating with the commissary manager.

e. Regional Travel Priorities:

Priority 1: Niger, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Dem Rep of Congo, Kenya, and Senegal.

Priority 2: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d' Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Mali, Cameroon, Tanzania, Angola and/or Mozambique, Botswana and/or Zimbabwe .

Priority 3: Uganda, Central African Rep, Zambia, Namibia.

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